

null  
Diana T Fritz 12/19/2006 04:40:47 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

Cable  
Text:

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 04603

SIPDIS  
CXABU:

ACTION: PAO  
INFO: ECON POL AMB DCM

DISSEMINATION: PAO  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: PAO:HOLSIN-WINDECKER  
DRAFTED: PAO:AALKHATIB  
CLEARED: PAO:DEDGINTON

VZCZCADI563  
OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR  
RHRMDAB RUCJACC RUCQSOC  
DE RUEHAD #4603/01 3501227  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 151227Z DEC 04  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7288  
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0861  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0902  
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT  
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//  
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 004603

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP; NEA/PPD; NEA/RA; INR/R/MR; PA;  
INR/NESA; INR/B; IIP/G/NEA-SA  
WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE; NSC  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA  
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD  
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH; PARIS FOR ZEYA  
LONDON PASS TO MOC  
E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: FORUM FOR THE FUTURE

1. SUMMARY: THE "FORUM OF THE FUTURE" IN MOROCCO AND THE "ARAB STRATEGY FORUM" IN DUBAI DOMINATED COVERAGE IN LOCAL ELECTRONIC AND PRINT MEDIA THIS WEEK. AN EDITORIAL IN "AL KHALEEJ" NOTED THAT REFORM IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE ARAB WORLD BUT NOT THROUGH THE U.S. OR ISRAEL. WHEREAS ONLY A FEW EDITORIALS SPECIFICALLY COMMENTED ON THE FORUM FOR THE FUTURE, REPORTS WERE IN ALL ARABIC AND ENGLISH PAPERS AND THE TONE WAS OFTEN CRITICAL. THE DICHOTOMY OF THE POSITIONS OF THE ARAB WORLD AND THE UNITED STATES WAS ALWAYS EVIDENT; THAT THE U.S. WAS INTERESTED IN REFORM ONLY AND THE ARAB WORLD WANTED TO LINK REFORM WITH SOLVING THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. SAMPLE HEADLINES INCLUDED, "WASHINGTON WILL NOT HASTEN SOLVING THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM AND REFUSES TO LINK IT WITH REFORM." & "POWELL REFUSES TO LINK REFORM TO SOLUTION OF PALESTINIAN ISSUE." UAE COLUMNISTS ABDULLAH RASHEED LAUDED SAUDI ARABIA'S MUFTI'S CONDEMNATION OF THE ATTACKS ON THE U.S. CONSULATE IN JEDDAH AND ANY SIMILAR ATTACKS. END SUMMARY.

2. Rashed Saleh Al-Uraimi wrote in his weekly column in the Abu Dhabi-based semi-official Arabic daily "Al-Ittihad" 12/13:

"..What is noticeable about the two-day conference "Forum of the Future" that took place in Morocco two days ago was the modest and superficial language that characterized its communiqu, a clear indication that the ceiling of the super power aspirations

for reforms and democracy for the region has severely dropped, or may have reached a state of helplessness. As for representatives of the region, they tended to change the course of the forum, so it became an opportunity to talk about financial assistance and an opportunity to attract financing for small projects. Instead of educational reform they talked about eliminating illiteracy, and the need to improve the status of women instead of talking about empowering women, and voluntary democratic reform instead of exporting democracy on the dead bodies of regimes similar to the Iraqi case. The region, through the obstruction of democratic winds, was able to restrain the American administration and the neo-cons who are planning to remap the region from scratch. What the super powers are planning for peoples of the region is not clear in light of the statements we hear. However, what peoples of the region aspire is crystal clear and cannot be delayed. They prefer to improve their standard of living and get job opportunities, solve the Arab-Israeli conflict, eliminate extremism and improve healthcare services, instead of all political reforms and other loose slogans promoted by Washington. In short, the people of this region do not suffer confusion in their vision and know very well what kind of reform they need, unlike Washington, its allies as well as some governments in the region."

13. NOTING THAT REFORM IN THE ARAB WORLD SHOULD HAPPEN BUT NOT THROUGH THE U.S., "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 12/13:

"REFORM IN THE ARAB WORLD IS REQUESTED, BUT NOT THROUGH THE U.S. AND AS IT WANTS. AND REFORM IN PALESTINE IS POSSIBLE BUT NOT THROUGH THE ZIONIST TERRORISTS. ARABS REALIZE WHAT HAPPENED IN IRAQ BECAUSE OF THE AMERICAN REFORM AND WHAT HAPPENED IN PALESTINE BECAUSE OF THE 'ISRAELI' REFORM. IF THOSE TOOK THEIR WICKEDNESS AWAY FROM THE ARABS, THE REGION WILL BE MORE THAN OK AND IT WOULD HAVE CONCENTRATED ON DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT INSTEAD OF CONCENTRATING ON REPELLING ATTACKS AND PROTECTING PEOPLE AND LANDS FROM NEW OCCUPATION, DOMINATION, AND OPPRESSION."

14. COMMENTING ON THE ARAB STRATEGY FORUM AND THE ISSUES THAT ARABS NEED TO DISCUSS, "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 12/14: (ARABIC DAILY, SHARJAH-BASED, SEMI-OFFICIAL, CIRCULATION 85,000)

"CHANGE, REFORM, MODERNIZATION AND THE ATTITUDES OF GOVERNMENTS TOWARDS THIS, IN ADDITION TO THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARDS PALESTINE AND IRAQ AND THE ATTITUDE OF THE U.S. AND THE ZIONISTS, AND THE RELATION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST PARTICULARLY THE RELATION BETWEEN ISLAM AND THE WEST ARE ALL ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE DISCUSSED AND PRESENT IN THE ARAB STRATEGY FORUM."

15. UAE COLUMNIST ABDULLAH RASHEED WROTE AN ARTICLE IN "AL ITTIHAD" ON 12/13 LAUDING THE SAUDI MUFTI'S CONDEMNATION OF THE ATTACKS ON THE U.S. CONSULATE IN JEDDAH: ARABIC DAILY, ABU DHABI-BASED, SEMI-OFFICIAL, CIRCULATION 85,000)

"PROHIBITING THIS TERRORIST ATTACK OR ANYTHING SIMILAR TO IT AND CONSIDERING THE PEOPLE WHO COMMITTED IT TO BE ATHEISTS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL THE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION NOT ONLY IN SAUDI ARABIA BUT ALL OVER THE ISLAMIC WORLD. IT IS TIME FOR ALL >>> AND ALL ISLAMIC PARTIES TO BE CLEAR IN DEALING WITH THE GROUPS THAT HAVE CHOSEN THE ROAD OF ATHEISM AND SINS."

16. POINTING OUT THAT THE U.S. PREFERS THAT THE REGION REMAINS UNSTABLE, "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 12/12:

"THE U.S. DOES NOT WANT DEMOCRACY IN THE REGION, IT IS ONLY USING IT AS AN EXCUSE TO JUSTIFY ITS WAR AGAINST IRAQ AFTER ALL THE EXCUSES REGARDING WMD AND THE CONNECTIONS WITH 'AL QAEDA' WERE USELESS. THE U.S. DOES NOT WANT ANY SETTLEMENT IN THE ARAB REGION AS LONG AS IT IS ABLE TO DEFINE THE POLICIES IMPOSE THE REALITY IT WANTS. IS THERE PROOF MORE THAN PRESIDENT BUSH'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTPONING HIS 'VISION' OF A PALESTINIAN STATE TO THE YEAR 2009 INSTEAD OF 2005?."

SISON